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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------030872 231915Z /72
P 231702Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9660
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11610

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, MNUC, ENRG, GW, KS
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ROK INTEREST IN PROCUREMENT OF A HEAVY WATER PRODUCTION PLANT

REF: (A) SEOUL 4890, (B) STATE 153174

1. ACCORDING TO KWU (LEZENIK), INTEREST IN HEAVY WATER REACTORS HAS INCREASED ABROAD AS CONSEQUENCE OF QUOTE CONCERNS ABOUT RELIABILITY OF U.S. FUEL SUPPLY UNQUOTE. KWU IS, OF COURSE, INTERESTED IN EXPLOITING THIS POTENTIAL MARKET.

2. SCICOUNSELOR DISCUSSED WITH DR. HANS-HEINRICH FREWER (KWU BOARD OF DIRECTORS) KOREAN INTEREST IN REACTOR PURCHASES FROM KWU. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION REGARDING POSSIBLE SOURCE OF D2O IN EVENT KOREA DECIDED TO PURCHASE HEAVY WATER REACTOR, DR. FREWER BECAME SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE AND SAID TO ASK THE KOREANS NOW KWU, ADDING THAT KWU WAS NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF BUILDING OR SELLING D2O PRODUCTION PLANTS.

3. COMMENT: WE SHARE EMBASSY SEOUL'S CONCERNS ABOUT
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THE PROLIFERATION IMPLICATIONS OF A HEAVY WATER PRODUCTION CAPABILITY IN THE ROK. WE BELIEVE THE FRG SHARES THESE CONCERNS AS WELL. FREWER'S REACTION INDICATES THAT HE MAY HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED D2O PRODUCTION QUESTION WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND BEEN ADVISED AGAINST PURSUING MATTER. SINCE IT DOES NOT NOW APPEAR THAT THE SUPPLY OF A HEAVY WATER PRODUCTION

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FACILITY IS TO BE AN ELEMENT OF THE KWU REACTOR SALES PACKAGE TO KECO, WE RECOMMEND AGAINST ANY FORMAL DEMARCHE AT THIS TIME. EMBASSY BONN WILL, OF COURSE, REPORT ON ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA.
STOESSEL

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